

CLAIMS

1. Expandable intragastric balloon intended to be implanted inside the stomach of a patient so as to reduce  
5 the volume of the stomach in order to treat obesity, which balloon (1) is equipped with at least one first flexible pocket (2) capable of changing from a folded position to an expanded position by introducing an inflation fluid into the first pouch (2), wherein said  
10 expanded position gives the balloon its functional form, characterised in that it comprises means for ballasting (3) said balloon, enabling the balloon (1) to be substantially weighted so as to improve its positioning in the stomach.
- 15 2. Intragastic balloon according to claim 1, characterised in that the ballasting means (3) are structurally integrated with the balloon (1).
- 20 3. Intragastic balloon according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the ballasting means (3) are located inside said first pouch (2).
- 25 4. Intragastic balloon according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the ballasting means (3) comprise at least one solid dense body (3S) capable of forming a ballast.
- 30 5. Intragastic balloon according to claim 4, characterised in that the ballasting means (3) comprise a plurality of solid dense bodies (3S).

6. Intragastric balloon according to claim 5,  
characterised in that the solid dense bodies (3S) are  
connected to one another so as to limit their relative  
mobility.

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7. Intragastric balloon according to claim 6,  
characterised in that the ballasting means (3) comprise  
spacers, arranged between two consecutive solid bodies  
(35) so as to prevent shocks.

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8. Intragastric balloon according to one of claims 1 to 3,  
characterised in that the ballasting means (3) include at  
least one absorbent body (3A) capable of forming a  
ballast in the presence of moisture.

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9. Intragastric balloon according to claim 8,  
characterised in that the absorbent body (3A) is formed  
by a sponge or a foam.

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10. Intragastric balloon according to claim 9,  
characterised in that the sponge is made of a polyvinyl  
alcohol-based material.

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11. Intragastric balloon according to claim 8,  
characterised in that the ballasting means (3) include a  
plurality of absorbent bodies (3A) formed by super-  
absorbent particles of sodium polyacrylate polymer.

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12. Intragastric balloon according to claim 1 or 2,  
characterised in that it includes a second flexible pouch  
(5), said second flexible pouch being arranged so that it  
contains the first flexible pouch (2), with the

ballasting means (3) being contained in said second flexible pouch (5).

13. Intragastric balloon according to one of claims 1 to  
5 12, characterised in that it comprises at least one sheath (8) capable of containing the ballasting means (3).

14. Intragastric balloon according to claim 13,  
characterised in that the sheath (8) comprises two ends  
10 (8A, 8B), which sheath (8) is secured to the balloon (1)  
near at least one of said ends (8A, 8B).

15. Intragastric balloon according to claim 14,  
characterised in that one end of the sheath (8) extends  
15 outside the balloon (1) to form a pull tab (9).

16. Intragastric balloon according to any one of claims  
13 to 15, characterised in that the sheath (8) is  
deformable.

20 17. Intragastric balloon according to any one of claims  
13 to 16, characterised in that the sheath (8) is made of  
a biocompatible material.

25 18. Intragastric balloon according to any one of claims 1  
to 17, characterised in that the surface of the first  
pouch (2) is coated, at least partially, with an  
impermeable parylene coating.

30 19. Intragastric balloon according to claim 1,  
characterised in that inflation fluid is a gas.

20. Intragastric balloon according to claim 19,  
characterised in that the ballasting means (3) include a  
liquid (11) intended to be introduced into the first  
pouch (2) so as to form a ballast.

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21. Use of an absorbent body (3A) to form a ballast for  
an expandable intragastric balloon (1).

22. Use according to claim 21, characterised in that the  
10 absorbent body (3A) comprises a super-absorbent material  
based on sodium polyacrylate.

23. Use according to claim 21, characterised in that the  
absorbent body (3A) comprises a sponge or a foam.

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24. Use according to claim 23, characterised in that the  
material forming the sponge comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

25. Use of solid dense bodies (3S) as ballasting means  
20 for or in an expandable intragastric balloon (1).

26. Use according to claim 25, characterised in that the  
solid dense bodies (3S) comprise tungsten.